

**U.S. District Court  
District of Columbia (Washington, DC)  
CIVIL DOCKET FOR CASE #: 1:18-cv-02567-BAH**

BUZZFEED, INC. et al v. FEDERAL BUREAU OF  
INVESTIGATION

Assigned to: Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell

Demand: \$0

Cause: 05:552 Freedom of Information Act

**Plaintiff**

**BUZZFEED, INC.**

Date Filed: 11/07/2018

Jury Demand: None

Nature of Suit: 895 Freedom of  
Information Act

Jurisdiction: U.S. Government Defendant

represented by **Matthew Topic**  
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**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

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**TERMINATED: 03/04/2019**

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**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Plaintiff**

**JASON LEOPOLD**

represented by **Matthew Topic**  
(See above for address)  
**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

**Matthew Lynn Schafer**  
(See above for address)  
**TERMINATED: 03/04/2019**

**Merrick Jason Wayne**  
(See above for address)  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

V.

**Defendant**

represented by

**FEDERAL BUREAU OF  
INVESTIGATION**

**Cristen Cori Handley**  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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**LEAD ATTORNEY**  
**ATTORNEY TO BE NOTICED**

| Date Filed | #         | Docket Text   |
|------------|-----------|---|
| 11/07/2018 | <u>1</u>  | COMPLAINT against FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION ( Filing fee \$ 400 receipt number 0090-5781247) filed by BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B, # <u>3</u> Exhibit C, # <u>4</u> Exhibit D, # <u>5</u> Civil Cover Sheet, # <u>6</u> Summons)(Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 11/07/2018)  |
| 11/07/2018 |           | Case Assigned to Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell. (zmd) (Entered: 11/08/2018)   |
| 11/08/2018 | <u>2</u>  | SUMMONS (3) Issued Electronically as to FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Summons 2nd, # <u>2</u> Summons 3rd, # <u>3</u> Notice and Consent) (zmd) (Entered: 11/08/2018)   |
| 11/21/2018 | <u>3</u>  | STANDING ORDER. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on November 21, 2018. (lcbah3) (Entered: 11/21/2018)  |
| 12/03/2018 | <u>4</u>  | RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed as to the United States Attorney. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney on 11/19/2018. Answer due for ALL FEDERAL DEFENDANTS by 12/19/2018. (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 12/03/2018)  |
| 12/03/2018 | <u>5</u>  | RETURN OF SERVICE/AFFIDAVIT of Summons and Complaint Executed on United States Attorney General. Date of Service Upon United States Attorney General 11/19/2018. (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 12/03/2018)   |
| 12/07/2018 | <u>6</u>  | AMENDED COMPLAINT <i>AS OF RIGHT</i> against FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION filed by BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A – Request #1, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B – Acknowledgment #1, # <u>3</u> Exhibit C – Expedited Processing #1, # <u>4</u> Exhibit D – Unusual Circumstances #1, # <u>5</u> Exhibit E – Request #2, # <u>6</u> Exhibit F – Acknowledgment #2, # <u>7</u> Exhibit G – Expedited Processing #2, # <u>8</u> Exhibit H – Unusual Circumstances #2, # <u>9</u> Exhibit I – Request #3, # <u>10</u> Exhibit J – Acknowledgment #3, # <u>11</u> Exhibit K – Expedited Processing #3, # <u>12</u> Exhibit L – Unusual Circumstances #3, # <u>13</u> Exhibit M – Request #4, # <u>14</u> Exhibit N – Acknowledgment #4, # <u>15</u> Exhibit ) – Expedited Processing #4, # <u>16</u> Exhibit P – Unusual Circumstances #4)(Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 12/07/2018) |
| 12/07/2018 | <u>7</u>  | NOTICE to Reissue Summons by BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Summons, # <u>2</u> Summons)(Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 12/07/2018)  |
| 12/10/2018 | <u>8</u>  | SUMMONS (3) REISSUED Electronically as to FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION, U.S. Attorney and U.S. Attorney General (zrdj). Modified event title on 12/13/2018 (znmw). (Entered: 12/10/2018)   |
| 12/20/2018 | <u>9</u>  | NOTICE of Appearance by Cristen Cori Handley on behalf of FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 12/20/2018)  |
| 12/20/2018 | <u>10</u> | Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to File Answer re <u>6</u> Amended Complaint,,, by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 12/20/2018)  |
| 12/21/2018 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) GRANTING the defendant's <u>10</u> Consent Motion for Extension of Time to Respond to Amended Complaint. Accordingly, the defendant shall, by January 16, 2019, file any response to the plaintiffs' <u>6</u> Amended Complaint. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on December 21, 2018. (lcbah3) (Entered: 12/21/2018)  |

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| 12/21/2018 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Answer to the Amended Complaint by Federal Bureau of Investigation due by 1/16/2019. (tg) (Entered: 12/21/2018)  |
| 01/08/2019 | <u>11</u> | MOTION to Stay <i>Deadline to Respond to Amended Complaint</i> by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 01/08/2019)  |
| 01/08/2019 | <u>12</u> | Memorandum in opposition to re <u>11</u> MOTION to Stay <i>Deadline to Respond to Amended Complaint</i> filed by BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD. (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Exhibit A, # <u>2</u> Exhibit B, # <u>3</u> Exhibit C, # <u>4</u> Exhibit D, # <u>5</u> Exhibit E)(Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 01/08/2019)   |
| 01/08/2019 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) GRANTING the defendant's <u>11</u> Motion for a Stay in Light of Lapse in Appropriations, notwithstanding the plaintiffs' <u>12</u> Opposition to Defendant's Motion to Stay. Accordingly, the January 16, 2019 deadline for the defendant to respond to the plaintiffs' <u>6</u> Amended Complaint is stayed until Congress appropriates funds for the defendant, and it is ordered that the defendant shall file any response to the plaintiffs' <u>6</u> Amended Complaint within five days of Congress appropriating funds for the defendant. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on January 8, 2019. (lcbah3) (Entered: 01/08/2019) |
| 01/28/2019 | <u>13</u> | NOTICE of Restoration of Appropriations by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 01/28/2019)   |
| 01/30/2019 | <u>14</u> | ANSWER to <u>6</u> Amended Complaint,,, by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION.(Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 01/30/2019)   |
| 02/13/2019 | <u>15</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. (Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 02/13/2019)  |
| 02/15/2019 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>15</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by March 15, 2019, a joint status report advising the Court of (1) the status of the defendant's searches, including an estimate of when those searches will be completed; (2) when the defendant expects to make a final determination for each of the plaintiffs' FOIA requests; and (3) a proposed schedule for the processing and production of records. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on February 15, 2019. (lcbah3) (Entered: 02/15/2019)  |
| 02/15/2019 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 3/15/2019. (tg) (Entered: 02/19/2019)   |
| 03/01/2019 | <u>16</u> | NOTICE of Appearance by Matthew Topic on behalf of BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 03/01/2019)   |
| 03/04/2019 | <u>17</u> | NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL OF APPEARANCE as to BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD. Attorney Matthew Lynn Schafer terminated. (Schafer, Matthew) (Entered: 03/04/2019)  |
| 03/15/2019 | <u>18</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. (Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 03/15/2019)  |
| 03/15/2019 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) DIRECTING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>18</u> Joint Status Report, the parties to file, by August 21, 2019, a joint status report advising the Court whether any disputes remain between the parties, and if so, a proposed schedule to govern further proceedings. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on March 15, 2019. (lcbah3) (Entered: 03/15/2019)  |
| 03/15/2019 |           | Set/Reset Deadlines: Joint Status Report due by 8/21/2019. (tg) (Entered: 03/15/2019)   |
| 03/25/2019 | <u>19</u> | LCvR 26.1 CERTIFICATE OF DISCLOSURE of Corporate Affiliations and Financial Interests by BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 03/25/2019)   |
| 08/06/2019 | <u>20</u> | NOTICE of Appearance by Merrick Jason Wayne on behalf of BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Wayne, Merrick) (Entered: 08/06/2019)   |
| 08/21/2019 | <u>21</u> | Joint STATUS REPORT by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION. (Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 08/21/2019)  |
| 08/22/2019 |           | MINUTE ORDER (paperless) ISSUING, upon consideration of the parties' <u>21</u> Joint Status Report, the following SCHEDULING ORDER: (1) by October 21, 2019, the defendant shall file any motion for summary judgment; (2) by November 20, 2019, the  |

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|            |           | <p>plaintiffs shall file any consolidated cross-motion for summary judgment and opposition to the defendant's motion for summary judgment; (3) by December 20, 2019, the defendant shall file any consolidated reply in support of its motion for summary judgment and opposition to the plaintiff's cross-motion for summary judgment; and (4) by January 20, 2020, the plaintiffs shall file any reply in support of their cross-motion for summary judgment.</p> <p>A <i>Vaughn</i> Index submitted to the Court to justify any withholding should provide a sequentially numbered separate entry for each document withheld, in full or part, and the following information, at a minimum: (1) the document number; (2) the Bates stamp number range for the withheld document or portion of document; (3) the document description, including type of document (e.g., email, email attachment, or document), date and title, if applicable; (4) the author(s); (5) the recipient(s); (6) whether document withheld in full or part; (7) the statutory authority for the withholding; and (8) the reason the exemption applies to the document. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on August 22, 2019. (lcbah3) (Entered: 08/22/2019)</p> |
| 08/22/2019 |           | <p>Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's motion for summary judgment due by 10/21/2019. Plaintiffs' cross-motion for summary judgment and opposition to defendant's motion for summary judgment due by 11/20/2019. Defendant's reply in support of its motion for summary judgment and opposition to plaintiff's cross-motion due by 12/20/2019. Plaintiffs' reply in support of their cross-motion due by 1/20/2020. (hmc) (Entered: 08/22/2019)</p>   |
| 10/18/2019 | <u>22</u> | <p>Consent MOTION for Extension of Time to <i>File Motion for Summary Judgment</i> by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order Proposed Order)(Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 10/18/2019)</p>  |
| 10/21/2019 |           | <p>MINUTE ORDER (paperless) GRANTING the defendant's <u>22</u> Consent Motion for Extension of Time to File Summary Judgment Motion. Accordingly, by October 25, 2019, the defendant shall file any motion for summary judgment; by November 25, 2019, the plaintiffs shall file any consolidated cross-motion for summary judgment and opposition to the defendant's motion for summary judgment; by December 27, 2019, the defendant shall file any consolidated reply in support of its motion for summary judgment and opposition to the plaintiff's cross-motion for summary judgment; and by January 27, 2020, the plaintiffs shall file any reply in support of their cross motion for summary judgment. Signed by Chief Judge Beryl A. Howell on October 21, 2019. (lcbah3) (Entered: 10/21/2019)</p>  |
| 10/21/2019 |           | <p>Set/Reset Deadlines: Defendant's summary judgment motion due by 10/25/2019; plaintiffs' cross-motion and opposition to motion for summary judgment due by 11/25/2019; defendant's opposition to cross-motion and reply to opposition to motion for summary judgment due by 12/27/2019; plaintiffs' reply to opposition to cross-motion due by 1/27/2020. (tg) (Entered: 10/21/2019)</p>   |
| 10/25/2019 | <u>23</u> | <p>MOTION for Summary Judgment by FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Memorandum in Support, # <u>2</u> Statement of Facts, # <u>3</u> Declaration, # <u>4</u> Exhibit, # <u>5</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Handley, Cristen) (Entered: 10/25/2019)</p>  |
| 11/20/2019 | <u>24</u> | <p>Unopposed MOTION for Extension of Time to File <i>Unopposed Motion to Amend Briefing Schedule</i> by BUZZFEED, INC., JASON LEOPOLD (Attachments: # <u>1</u> Text of Proposed Order)(Topic, Matthew) (Entered: 11/20/2019)</p>   |